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## INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF REINFORCING STEEL SUPPORTS

### **GENERAL**

Supports for reinforcing steel come in various sizes and types. These types have specific names such as slab bolsters, high chairs or continuous high chairs. The supports are used to hold reinforcing steel in place while concrete is being placed. They are typically made of small diameter steel rods, steel wire, or various shapes of molded plastic. They shall meet the requirements of [Section 2404.07](#) of the Standard Specifications.

Table 1 identifies the various configurations of steel wire supports available. Table 2 lists the minimum sizes of steel wire required for the supports. Approval is based on meeting the minimum wire diameter sizes listed in Table 2.

Also, this I.M. provides an approved list of plastic supports. The approved brands of plastic supports have met or exceeded the load carrying capacity of the steel wire supports. Therefore, the approved plastic supports may be used at the same spacing as the steel wire supports. Appendix A lists approved brands of plastic supports. The maximum spacing for any bar support (steel or plastic) shall not exceed 1.20 m (4 ft.-0 in.).

### **APPROVAL PROCESS**

A manufacturer wishing to obtain approval shall submit the following to the Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Materials, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010:

1. Technical Product Information
2. Samples:  
For individual chairs - 5 pieces  
For continuous support - 3 m (10 lineal feet)

### **TESTING PROCEDURE**

The testing procedure involves determining a point load limit for all supports and also a linear load limit for continuous devices.

The point load limit is determined by placing a #10 M (#4) reinforcing bar on the support. The support is then placed on a 19 mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  in.) piece of fir plywood. A load is applied to the bar at a rate of 13 mm (0.5 in.) deflection per minute until the support fails. Point loads are determined at the weakest point on continuous supports.

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The linear load limit is determined by placing a 300 mm (1 ft.) long plate on top of the continuous support. The support is again placed on a 19 mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  in.) piece of fir plywood and loaded at 13 mm (0.5 in.) deflection per minute until the support fails.

The supports fail in one of three principle ways:

1. Breaking
2. Excessive bending or deformation - more than 13 mm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  in.)
3. Excessive gouging into the plywood - more than 2.5 mm (0.1 in.)

### **MONITOR SAMPLING AND TESTING**

Samples may be secured from the project and tested to verify compliance.

TABLE 1 METRIC - TYPICAL TYPES AND SIZES OF WIRE BAR SUPPORTS

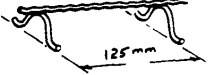

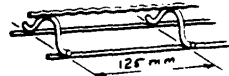





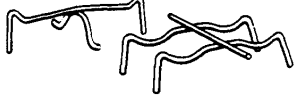

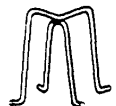
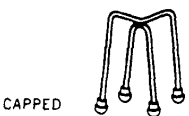

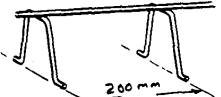
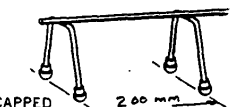
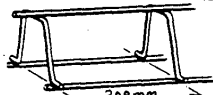

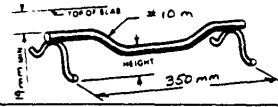
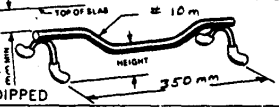
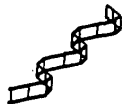
SYMBOL	BAR SUPPORT ILLUSTRATIONS	BAR SUPPORT ILLUSTRATION PLASTIC CAPPED OR DIPPED	TYPE OF SUPPORT	TYPICAL SIZES
SB			Slab Bolster	20, 25, 40 and 50 mm heights in 1.5 and 3.0 m lengths
SBU*			Slab Bolster Upper	Same as SB
BB			Beam Bolster	25, 40, 50 mm over 50 to 125 mm heights in increments of 5 mm in lengths of 1.5 m
BBU*			Beam Bolster Upper	Same as BB
BC			Individual Bar Chair	20, 25, 40 and 45 mm heights
JC			Joist Chair	100, 125 and 150 mm widths and 20, 25, and 40 mm heights
HC			Individual High Chair	50 to 375 mm heights in increments of 5 mm
HCM*			High Chair for Metal Deck	50 to 375 mm heights in increments of 5 mm
CHC			Continuous High Chair	Same as HC in 1.5 and 3.0 m lengths
CHCU*			Continuous High Chair Upper	Same as CHC
CHCM*			Continuous High Chair for Metal Deck	Up to 125 mm heights in increments of 5 mm
JCU**			Joist Chair Upper	350 mm span heights -25 mm thru +90 vary in 5 mm increments
CS			Continuous Support	40 to 300 mm in increments of 5 mm in lengths of 2 m

TABLE 2 METRIC – MINIMUM WIRE SIZES

SYMBOL	NOMINAL HEIGHT	CARBON STEEL			STAIN-LESS STEEL	USUAL GEOMETRY
		TOP	LEGS	RUNNER	LEGS	
SB	All	4 ga. Corrugated	6 ga.	–	8 ga.	Legs spaced 125 mm on center. Vertical corrugations spaced 25 mm on center.
SBU	All	4 ga. Corrugated	6 ga.	7 ga.	–	Same as SB.
BB	Up to 40 mm incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	–	9 ga.	Legs spaced 65 mm on center.
	Over 40 to 50 mm incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	–	8 ga.	
	Over 50 to 90 mm incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	–	7 ga.	
	Over 90 mm.	4 ga.	4 ga.	–	–	
BBU	Up to 50 mm incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	7 ga.	–	Same as BB.
	Over 50 mm	4 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	–	
BC	All	–	7 ga.	–	9 ga.	–
JC	All	–	6 ga.	–	9 ga.	–
HC	50 to 90 mm incl.	–	4 ga.	–	7 ga.	Legs at 20 deg. or less with vertical. When height exceeds 300 mm, legs are reinforced with welded corsswires or encircling wires.
	Over 90 to 125 mm incl.	–	4 ga.	–	–	
	Over 125 to 225 mm incl.	–	2 ga.	–	–	
	Over 225 to 375 mm incl.	–	0 ga.	–	–	
HCM	50 to 125 mm incl.	–	4 ga.	–	–	Same as HC. The longest leg will govern the size of wire to be used.
	Over 125 to 225 mm incl.	–	–	–	–	
	Over 225 to 375 mm incl.	–	–	–	–	
CHC	50 to 90 mm incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	–	7 ga.	Legs at 20 deg. or less with vertical. All legs 210 mm on center maximum, with leg within 100 mm of end of chair, and spread between legs not less than 50% of nominal height.
	Over 90 to 125 mm incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	–	–	
	Over 125 to 225 mm incl.	2 ga.	2 ga.	–	–	
	Over 225 to 375 mm incl.	2 ga.	0 ga.	–	–	
CHCU	50 to 125 mm incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	–	Same as CHC.
	125 to 225 mm incl.	2 ga.	2 ga.	4 ga.	–	
	225 to 375 mm incl.	2 ga.	0 ga.	4 ga.	–	
CHCM	Up to 50 mm incl.	4 ga.	6 ga.	–	–	With 4 ga. top wire, maximum leg spacing is 125 mm on center. With 2 ga. top wire, maximum spacing is 250 mm on center.
	Up to 50 mm incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	–	–	
	Over 50 to 125 mm incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	–	–	
JCU	–25 to 90 mm incl. (Measured from form to top of middle prtion of saddle bar) in 5 mm increments.	#10 m bar	2 ga.	–	–	Legs spaced 350 mm on center. Maximum height pf JCU at support legs should be slab thickness minus 20 mm.
CS	40 to 175 mm incl.	8 ga.	8 ga.	8 ga.	–	Legs spaced 150 mm on center, 100 mm on center at bend point. Middle runner used for heights over 175 mm.
	125 to 300 mm incl.	6 ga.	6 ga.	6 ga.	–	
	190 to 300 mm incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	–	

Gauge

Decimal Equivalent (mm)

0	7.78
1	7.19
2	6.67
3	6.19
4	5.72
5	5.26
6	4.88
7	4.49
8	4.11
9	3.77

TABLE 1 ENGLISH – TYPICAL TYPES AND SIZES OF WIRE BAR SUPPORTS

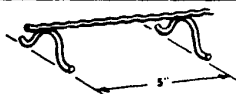
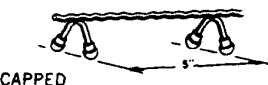
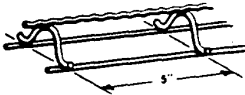
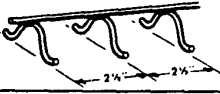

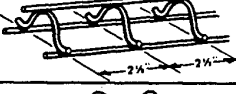




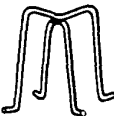
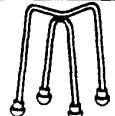



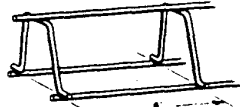

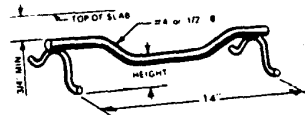
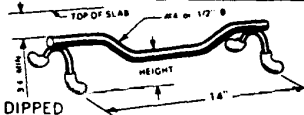
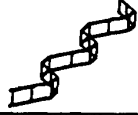
SYMBOL	BAR SUPPORT ILLUSTRATION	BAR SUPPORT ILLUSTRATION PLASTIC CAPPED OR DIPPED	TYPE OF SUPPORT	TYPICAL SIZES
SB		 CAPPED	Slab Bolster	$\frac{3}{4}$ , 1, 1½, and 2 inch heights in 5 ft. and 10 ft. lengths
SBU			Slab Bolster Upper	Same as SB
BB		 CAPPED	Beam Bolster	1, 1½, 2, over 2" to 5" heights in increments of ¼" in lengths of 5 ft.
BBU*			Beam Bolster Upper	Same as BB
BC		 DIPPED	Individual Bar Chair	$\frac{3}{4}$ , 1, 1½, and 1¾" heights
JC		 DIPPED DIPPED	Joist Chair	4, 5, and 6 inch widths and ¾, 1 and 1½ inch heights
HC		 CAPPED	Individual High Chair	2 to 15 inch heights in increments of ¼ inch
HCM			High Chair for Metal Deck	2 to 15 inch heights in increments of ¼ in.
CHC		 CAPPED	Continuous High Chair	Same as HC in 5 foot and 10 foot lengths
CHCU			Continuous High Chair Upper	Same as CHC
CHCM*			Continuous High Chair for Metal Deck	Up to 5 inch heights in increments of ¼ in.
JCU		 DIPPED	Joist Chair Upper	14" Span Heights - 1" thru + 3½" vary in ¼" increments
CS			Continuous Support	1½" to 12" in increments of ¼" in lengths of 6'-8"

TABLE 2 ENGLISH - MINIMUM WIRE SIZES

SYMBOL	NOMINAL HEIGHT	CARBON STEEL				STAIN-LESS STEEL	USUAL GEOMETRY
		TOP	LEGS	RUNNER	LEGS		
SB	All	4 ga. Corrugated	6 ga.	—	8 ga.		Legs spaced 5 in. on center. Vertical corrugations spaced 1 in. on center.
SBU	All	4 ga. Corrugated	6 ga.	7 ga.	—		Same as SB
BB	Up to 1½" incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	—	9 ga.		Legs spaced 2½ in. on center.
	Over 1½" to 2" incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	—	8 ga.		
	Over 2" to 3½" incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	—	7 ga.		
	Over 3½" to 4" incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	—	—		
BBU	Up to 2" incl.	7 ga.	7 ga.	7 ga.	—		Same as BB.
	Over 2" to 4" incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	—		
BC	All	—	7 ga.	—	9 ga.		—
JC	All	—	6 ga.	—	9 ga.		—
HC	2" to 3½" incl.	—	4 ga.	—	7 ga.		Legs at 20 deg. or less with vertical. When height exceeds 12 in., legs are reinforced with welded crosswires or encircling wires.
	Over 3½" to 5" incl.	—	4 ga.	—	—		
	Over 5" to 9" incl.	—	2 ga.	—	—		
	Over 9" to 15" incl.	—	0 ga.	—	—		
HCM	2" to 5" incl.	—	4 ga.	—	—		Same as HC. The longest leg will govern the size of wire to be used.
	Over 5" to 9" incl.	—	—	—	—		
	Over 9" to 15" incl.	—	—	—	—		
CHC	2" to 3½" incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	—	7 ga.		Legs at 20 deg. or less with vertical. All legs 8¼ in. on center maximum, with leg within 4 in. of end of chair, and spread between legs not less than 50% of nominal height.
	Over 3½" to 5" incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	—	—		
	Over 5" to 9" incl.	2 ga.	2 ga.	—	—		
	Over 9" to 15" incl.	2 ga.	0 ga.	—	—		
CHCU	2" to 5" incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	—		Same as CHC.
	Over 5" to 9" incl.	2 ga.	2 ga.	4 ga.	—		
	Over 9" to 15" incl.	2 ga.	0 ga.	4 ga.	—		
CHCM	Up to 2" incl.	4 ga.	6 ga.	—	—		With 4 ga. top wire, maximum leg spacing is 5 in. on center. With 2 ga. top wire, maximum spacing is 10 in. on center.
	Up to 2" incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	—	—		
	Over 2" to 5" incl.	2 ga.	4 ga.	—	—		
JCU	- 1" to +3½" incl. (Measured from form to top of middle portion of saddle bar) in ¼" increments.	#4 bar or ½" ø	2 ga.	—	—		Legs spaced 14 in. on center. Maximum height of JCU at support legs should be slab thickness minus ¾ in.
CS	1½" to 7" incl.	8 ga.	8 ga.	8 ga.	—		Legs spaced 6 in. on center, 4 in. on center at bend point. Middle runner used for heights over 7 in.
	5" to 12" incl.	6 ga.	6 ga.	6 ga.	—		
	7½" to 12" incl.	4 ga.	4 ga.	4 ga.	—		

Gauge

Decimal Equivalent (Inches)

0	.3065
1	.2830
2	.2625
3	.2437
4	.2253
5	.2070
6	.1920
7	.1770
8	.1620
9	.1483